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THUNDERING ROMANCE

Photoplay, prints

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BUFFALO BILL, JR.

In

"THUNDERING ROMANCE"

CAST

"LIGHTNING" BILL.	BUFFALO BILL, JR.
Mary Watkins.	Jean Arthur
Lew Simmons.	Rene Picot
Davey Jones.	Harry Todd
Hank Callahan.	Lew Meehan
Mark Jennings.	J.P. Lockney
The Oil Representative.	G.A. Williams
The Sheriff.	Lafe McKee

Directed by W.T. Lackey and Lester F. Scott, Jr.
Produced by Richard Thorpe
Screenplay by Ned Nye ✓
Story by Ray Ries
Distributed by Action Pictures, Inc.

SYNOPSIS

an old sailor, astride a grotesque horse whose
ancient ship's gear and who has come to the desert
buried treasure, seems to be the chief source of
trouble for the town's peace, Hank Callahan. Hank, for the entertainment of
the onlookers, is having an unfair fight with Davey. "Lightning" Bill, who always
likes to see a square deal and ready to help the under dog, stands by watching.
He walks up behind Hank and, turning him around, asks what he is doing. Hank
starts to draw his gun and a fight follows. Bill whips him and then leaves.
As he starts away Hank fires and Bill's hat is knocked off. Bill in self-defense
fires back and Hank falls wounded. Davey, running to Bill, tells him that he is
the sheriff's brother-in-law and urges him to escape, telling him that he, Davey,
will meet him at a certain cave.

The sheriff comes in and the men tell him what has
happened. The sheriff is furious and orders every man to join him in pursuit of
Bill. Bill is pursued by the posse until he comes to a chasm in the mountains.
He rides up to it and looks; goes back away puts his horse at it and clears the
chasm in a mighty jump. The Posse seeing this, and unwilling to take the chance
to go across, give up the pursuit and return to town.

Davey rides out of town on his grotesque horse, "Barnacle"
and meets Bill at the appointed place. He is showing Bill his map to the buried
treasure and in so doing accidentally burns Bill on the arm with the stick from the
fire that he is using as a pointer. As they are so engaged they see a tramp
thrown off a passing freight train. They go to him and find he has been badly
injured. Bill prepares to take the man to town to a doctor but he refuses to go,

Harry arrives at the ranch with the real brother, Lew Simmons. Bill returns to the ranch and finds a deputy there who has come to collect the note. Bill pays him the money. He then tells Mary he is not her brother, and must leave at once as the sheriff and Jennings will be after him. Mary pleads with him to stay. The sheriff arrives and calls for "Lew Simmons" to come out or he will come and get him. Realizing from the overheard conversation and what he has seen that Bill has saved the ranch by impersonating him and realizing his own weakness, the real brother writes a transfer of the ranch to Mary and taking a gun he goes to the door and shoots it. The sheriff fires and he rolls down the steps. Bill hears the shot and comes out. As they do, the man, who has shown up as Jennings, recognizes the fallen man as the real brother. Mary goes to him and he dies.

Without leaving, and he and Mary are making plans.

In the meantime, and who has all the ranch, the
getting twenty years from almost every place
his labors an old shoe
one more sign that fits the
coronation. He had
gotten himself
in the

explaining he has escaped prison to help his foster sister takes a newspaper ad to missing persons from his pocket which states Lew Simmons' father is dead and he is the one which is to be sold to satisfy the creditors. He says done it will be too late and he is too badly hurt to go further to try to do what he can and starts off for the ranch to he stays with the injured man, Lew Simmons, to follow along slowly.

Meanwhile near the Simmons Ranch, Mark Jennings, an oil man is pleased as he looks over the property, but states he will drill until he has control of the Simmons ranch. Jennings tells a mortgage on the ranch due on the thirty-first and the heir cannot but he will foreclose on the thirty-first and the place will be sold to the highest bidder who it shall be arranged shall be the oil representative.

Mary Watkins has been advertising for some time for her lost foster brother whom she has not seen since childhood, always believing that he will return in time and carrying him in her imagination as her idol.

Bill arrives at the Simmons Ranch on the morning of the thirty-first and meeting Mary asks her if this is the Simmons ranch and if she is Mary Watkins. Mary believes Bill to be her foster brother. Bill is a bit bewildered, but Mary will not give him a chance to explain, only telling him to hurry and come with her to the attorney's office. She mounts her horse, rides out, and Bill follows. The executor of the estate asks for Bill. The executor says he remembers Bill Simmons had, as a boy, been with him. Bill, realizing that he must masquerade as the son of Lew Simmons, which has resulted from Davey's error from selling the ranch for lack of money, tells him he cannot pay it until that he still holds a mortgage on the ranch is not paid. Bill tells him he cannot pay it until the end of three days grace as provided by the law. Bill and Mary leave and go to the attorney's office. The executor stands in front of the building planning to sell the property. The executor's proposed heir has the right to do to pay the mortgage, but the executor's plan of driving the cattle to a nearby town to sell them are overheard by one of Jennings' men, who tells Jennings and is instructed to stampede the cattle that night near the gorge, thus causing the herd to plunge over the gorge and be destroyed.

The cattle are rounded up and Bill and Mary, together with the other cowboys, start on their way. During the silence of the night Bill is aroused from his sleep - the cattle have stampeded, and are going over the cliff to destruction below. They do their best to head them off but are powerless. In the morning Jennings' man is found by Bill and the boys, dead with a knife in his hand, clearly proving to Bill that Jennings caused the stampede. Bill makes up his mind quickly. He rides to town and sends Mary back to the ranch.

Bill enters the attorney's office and with drawn gun, tells him he has come to collect for the cattle which are lying at the bottom of the gorge, showing Jennings he has proof that he caused the stampede. The attorney, under protest, hands over the money to Bill who gives him a bill of sale for the cattle.

As Bill is rushing out of Jennings' office he is seen by a man who is entering. The man coming into Jennings' office inquires who that was leaving in such a hurry. Jennings says Lew Simmons. The man replies that it is not as he knew Simmons to be in jail. Jennings, then realizing that Bill is an imposter, calls the sheriff and they start out to make Bill show his hand as an imposter.

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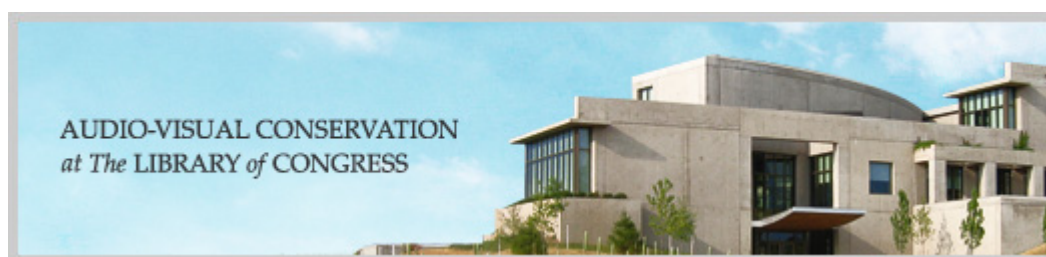
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